

citrate lactate compounds and related processes. Furthermore, calcium citrate malate has been extensively investigated as evidenced by U.S. Patent Nos. 5,468,506, 5,445,837, 5,422,128, 5,389,387, 5,314,919, 5,232,709, 5,225,221, 5,186,965, 5,151,274, 5,128,374, 5,118,513, 4,994,283, 4,992,282, 4,919,963, 4,872,919, 4,830,862, 4,786,510, 4,737,375 and 4,722,847.--

In the Claims:

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Please cancel claims 3, 12, 21-24 and 26-28 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 4-6, 8, 10, 13, 14, 16-18, 20, 25, 29 and 30 and add new claims 31-34 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of the claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

B2
of:
1. (Twice Amended) A calcium fortified beverage composition consisting
purified water, and
a calcium source consisting of a hydrate form of calcium sulfate,
wherein said calcium source provides at least about 10% U.S. RDV of
calcium per serving of said calcium fortified beverage composition.

B3
4. (Amended) A calcium fortified beverage composition consisting of:
purified water,
one or more non-mineral nutritional supplements, and

b3
a calcium source consisting of a hydrate form of calcium sulfate,
wherein said calcium source provides at least about 10% U.S. RDV of
calcium per serving of said calcium fortified beverage composition.

5. (Amended) The calcium fortified beverage composition according to
claim 4, wherein the non-mineral nutritional supplement is chosen from the group
consisting of vitamin A, vitamin D, tocopherol, ascorbic acid, thiamine, riboflavin, vitamin
B₆, vitamin B₁₂, vitamin K, niacin, folic acid, biotin, and combinations thereof.

6. (Amended) A calcium fortified beverage composition consisting of:
purified water,
a flavor component, and
a calcium source consisting of a hydrate form of calcium sulfate,
wherein said calcium source provides at least about 10% U.S. RDV of
calcium per serving of said calcium fortified beverage composition.

b4
8. (Amended) A calcium fortified beverage composition consisting of:
purified water,
a preservative system, and
a calcium source consisting of a hydrate form of calcium sulfate,
wherein said calcium source provides at least about 10% U.S. RDV of
calcium per serving of said calcium fortified beverage composition.

B5 10. (Twice Amended) A method for producing a calcium fortified beverage composition comprising:

(a) combining a ready to drink beverage and a calcium source consisting of a hydrate form of calcium sulfate to form a solution,

wherein said calcium source provides at least about 10% U.S. RDV of calcium per serving of said calcium fortified beverage composition; and

(b) preserving the solution to form the calcium fortified beverage composition.

B6 13. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of adding one or more non-mineral nutritional supplements prior to step (b).

14. (Amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein the one or more non-mineral nutritional supplements is chosen from the group consisting of vitamin A, vitamin D, tocopherol, ascorbic acid, thiamine, riboflavin, vitamin B₆, vitamin B₁₂, vitamin K, niacin, folic acid, biotin, and combinations thereof.

B7 16. (Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein the pasteurization process is chosen from the group consisting of hot-filling, aseptic packaging, ozonation, radiation, UV light, high pressure, membrane permeation, pulsed electric field, sonication, and combinations thereof.

b7 17. (Amended) The method according to claim 10 further comprising the step of adding one or more flavor components prior to step (b).

18. (Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the one or more flavor components is chosen from the group consisting of fruit flavors, botanical flavors, and mixtures thereof.

B8 20. (Twice Amended) A beverage composition consisting of:
purified water, and
at least about 10% U.S. RDV of calcium per serving of said beverage composition,
wherein the beverage composition is produced by combining purified water and a calcium source consisting of a hydrate form of calcium sulfate to form a solution.

B9 25. (Twice Amended) The beverage composition according to claim 20, wherein the hydrate form of calcium sulfate is calcium sulfate dihydrate.

B10 29. (Amended) A method of providing at least about 10% of the U.S. RDV of calcium to a subject comprising administering to the subject the calcium fortified beverage composition of claim 1.

B10
30. (Amended) A method of providing at least about 10% of the U.S. RDV of calcium to a subject comprising administering to the subject the beverage composition of claim 20.

B11
31. (New) A calcium fortified beverage composition consisting of:
purified water,
one or more non-mineral nutritional supplements,
a flavor component,
a preservative system, and
a calcium source consisting of a hydrate form of calcium sulfate,
wherein said calcium source provides at least about 10% U.S. RDV of calcium per serving of said calcium fortified beverage composition.

32. (New) A calcium fortified beverage composition consisting of:
purified water,
one or more non-mineral nutritional supplements,
a preservative system, and
a calcium source consisting of a hydrate form of calcium sulfate,
wherein said calcium source provides at least about 10% U.S. RDV of calcium per serving of said calcium fortified beverage composition.

33. (New) A calcium fortified beverage composition consisting of:
purified water,